

Dear Friend,

Last week marked the 44th anniversary of the creation of the Medicare program. With former President Harry Truman - a strong advocate for national health care - at his side, President Lyndon Johnson signed the program into law. Although Medicare now is widely seen as a successful program for helping Americans access health care, it was very controversial when it was passed. The same arguments used against Medicare then are being used against health care reform today. Click [here](#) for more information, including how the current health insurance reform proposal would benefit seniors by strengthening this successful program.

Recovery Research Funding Comes to New Jersey

When I [worked to ensure](#) that the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act included \$22 billion in funding for science research and facilities, I argued that this funding was exactly the kind of investment we must make to create jobs in the short term and foster the innovation necessary for economic growth in the long term. Central New Jersey – and our institutions at the forefront of critical research - are benefiting from this funding.

Rutgers University has been awarded \$4.76 million, while Princeton University has been awarded \$6.23 million for science and medical research funded by the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health. In addition, on Tuesday the Department of Energy announced that the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory will receive [\\$13.8 million](#) in new federal funding from the Recovery Act. The funding includes \$8.8 million for a variety of initiatives in fusion energy research and \$5 million for infrastructure improvements at the lab.

There is further good news. The Administration's [guidance](#) encourages federal departments for their Fiscal Year 2011 budget submissions to sustain higher investments in R&D.

Update on Cash for Clunkers Program

The “Cash for Clunkers” program that I [wrote](#) about last month has proven to be greatly popular and successful – within the program’s first week, dealers across America were inundated with consumers trading in their old, less fuel efficient vehicle to receive a voucher worth up to \$4,500 to help pay for a new, more fuel efficient car or truck. According to the Department of Transportation, the average fuel efficiency of old cars traded in through the program is 15.8 miles per gallon, while new cars had an average MPG of 25.4.

[The Economic Policy Institute](#)

has estimated that these fuel economy improvements will save \$821 annually per traded vehicle and that 850,000 fewer tons of CO2 will be emitted – a reduction greater than two-thirds of annual CO2 emissions from household electricity and heating.

Interest in the program was so great – approximately 250,000 vehicles have been sold – that last week the House voted, 316-109, to provide \$2 billion to extend the program. This week, the Senate is expected to follow suit to ensure that consumers can still take advantage of Cash for Clunkers. Click [here](#) for more information.

Sincerely,

RUSH HOLT
Member of Congress

P.S. Just a reminder: I always want to hear from you, but please don’t reply to this e-mail. Instead, please email me through my website at www.holt.house.gov , or call me at 1-87-RUSH-HOLT (1-877-874-4658) to let me know what's on your mind. Please also note that you may unsubscribe from this list by clicking on the "unsubscribe" link at the bottom of this email.